PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application. Claims 7-12 have been added. Claims 1-6 have

been rejected.

Claim Rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of

claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent 6,731,936.

Applicants have not amended claims 1-6 because Applicants respectfully submit that the

statutory double patenting rejection is improper. Applicants submit that the claims in U.S. Patent

6,731, 936 are not identical to the claims in the present case. The issued U.S. Patent 6,731,936

has claims directed to a method, while the claims in the present application are directed to an

apparatus. Therefore, the double patenting rejection is improper under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as

described in M.P.E.P. § 804 II A. Applicants respectfully request that the statutory double

patenting rejection be withdrawn.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are

patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly

solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the

undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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(858) 658-5803

QUALCOMM Incorporated 5775 Morehouse Drive San Diego, California 92121

Telephone:

(858) 658-5787

Facsimile:

(858) 658-2502

Attorney Docket No.: 010503C1

Customer No.: 23696

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